

## The Washington Times

Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (Including Sundays)

By The Washington Times Company, THE MURPHY BUILDING, PENNA. AVE.

FRANK A. MUNSEY, President.

R. H. TITHERINGTON, Secretary.

C. H. POPE, Treasurer.

One Year (Including Sundays), \$2.50.

Six Months, \$1.75. Three Months, 95c.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 1916.

## GERMANY'S PEACE MOVE

Precise precedent for the time and manner of the German peace suggestion is to be found, and it is curious that commentators have not thought themselves of it, in the proceedings that marked the beginning of the end of the Russo-Japanese conflict. That was a war between a military, completely prepared, compact nation, Japan, and a non-military, ill-prepared, diffused empire, Russia. Japan, ready "to the last gaiter's button," struck the first blow, seizing the sea road to Manchuria as Germany in like manner seized the route to France through Belgium. Japan pressed her advantage swiftly, for it was her game to win while the advantage of preparedness and the short lines of communication was all on her side. This, likewise, was exactly parallel to the present contest.

Japan won battle after battle, held the sea, took Port Arthur, but always failed to win the conclusive victory that could bring her enemy to her feet. It was as in the present war. The theoretically neutral Liao Tung peninsula was taken, just as Belgium has been; Korea was overrun, as Poland has been, but not immediately annexed. Instead there was a pretense of recognizing Korea as entitled to autonomy under Japanese domination, just as now Germany is re-creating the kingdom of Poland, but making it practically a German dependency. Then the war was pushed on into the Manchurian hinterland, just as Germany has been compelled to extend her lines into far Balkania, and into the Baltic provinces.

At length came the battle of Mukden. It was a great Japanese victory, but it did not bring the destruction of the Russian army, which escaped, retired, and proceeded to build up its strength for another trial. The superior resources of Russia in men and credit were beginning to tell, exactly as are the larger resources of the allies now. The naval battle of the Sea of Japan changed nothing; it merely left Japan in control of the sea as she had been all along; it was not unlike the battle of Jutland.

After Mukden and Tsushima it seemed as if Japan was at the crest of success and the height of power. She had nowhere been defeated; she had won only victories. But her enemy's armies were yet in the field, and gaining in strength. It was impossible for Japan to keep up the contest without taking desperate chances of being ultimately overborne by the greater numbers and wealth of Russia, whenever Russia should be fully prepared.

So Japan permitted peace to be proposed; and it is a most suggestive fact that the German Emperor was the instrument through whom the first advance was made. He recognized that he was not the right person to take the initiative; and he saw in Theodore Roosevelt the one sovereign in the world so far detached as to be qualified for that task. So, as has come to be understood in more recent time, President Roosevelt was conveyed an intimation that the time was ripe for a peace proposal.

Japan was in a position to discuss peace; not to ask it. She was the victor; but Japan knew, as nobody else could know, her own position. It was important, if not absolutely necessary, to bring hostilities to an end and secure the most advantageous terms before the tide should turn against her.

Germany may well be believed to be in a position not unlike that of Japan at that moment. Germany has just won a great military victory, in Roumania. She sees her enemies, however, more determined than ever; feels the slackening of her capacity to bring up new reserves; realizes the inferiority of her economic stock—and so she is willing to take advantage of her latest victory and appear magnanimous and humane by proposing peace discussions.

But will the parallel go farther? The Russo-Japanese war was never a popular war in Russia. The Russian people were not able to desert their immediate concern about it. On the contrary the present war is supported by the almost unanimous voice and purpose of the people of France, Britain, Russia, Italy. The great preponderance of neutral opinion is on their side. Their resources are being mobilized to greater and greater masses, while those of Germany are dwindling. The war is becoming unpopular in Germany to a much greater extent than it had become in Japan when Tokyo consented to discuss peace.

Again, Germany would have all the advantage in a peace conference at this time. Germany would be the

dictator on one side of the council table; there would be unity on that side, as against wide diversity on the other. Among the entente powers, Russia would insist that Poland be restored to her, and would want the Dardanelles opened. Probably Russia would stand out against entering upon any peace considerations until such time as would insure restoration of her Polish lands and give her at least a fair chance to open the Dardanelles.

A conjecture indicates that Germany would restore France and Belgium, though keeping Alsace-Lorraine and probably neutralizing Belgium in a way that would make it incapable of real national rehabilitation in future. This would amount to retaining the open highway for Prussia to the North Sea, making Antwerp for all the future what Napoleon described as "a pistol pointed at England's head." Will England, with five million soldiers now ready for business, consent? It is unthinkable. Will France, now confident, strong, reliant on her self and assured the sympathy of the whole world, consent to a peace that would leave her in greater danger than ever before? It cannot be believed.

It must be recognized that any peace which England and France would now accept, must give Germany some large advantages at the sole expense of Russia. England and France would be asked to betray Russia; and they will not do it. They cannot do it. That would be simply to kick Russia over into the arms of the central federation, and project a series of new alliances which would bring another war under conditions far less favorable to the western powers.

The vast divergence of interests of the different entente nations would place them at an impossible disadvantage in any peace conference now. They would be out-negotiated, just as Japan was out-negotiated at Portsmouth. The only chance they have is, first, to gain such decided military advantages as will insure terms giving to every one of them some part of the gains it demands. There must be, first of all, an end of Prussian militarism. Italy must gain some of its ambitions in the upper Adriatic, or it will be flung back into the old triple alliance, feeling that France and Britain have betrayed it.

Talk of peace, it must be assumed after any fair analysis of the whole condition, is premature.

## JUST MERELY TAKING IT

The Federal Trade Commission, after a careful survey of the paper situation, reports that it finds the cost of making paper now is no greater than it was a year ago. Yet the price has gone up to such a point that paper famine is not far away from the three-mile limit.

Just a little while ago the price of eggs was forced up to the rarer altitudes, and the public was expected to blame the hen. Then somebody discovered Mr. Wetzel, of Chicago with a 72,000,000 egg flock locked up somewhere, which he was going to sell when he could get about three times as much as he had paid for them.

It needed only to call attention to Mr. Wetzel's existence and to the fact that he was so generously endowed with eggs, to cause the price to begin slumping. The hen wasn't to blame after all. Perhaps in the case of paper, the mere discovery of the facts about cost will have a similar effect. When high prices represent nothing more than just merely a willingness to take the money, a little moral suasion is apt to be useful.

## THE TELEPHONE IN WASHINGTON

Local ownership of telephones is a little like county ownership of railroads. A business as wide as the country is under grave disadvantages whenever it is attempted to be restricted to the limits of a small community.

Nevertheless, Congressman Lewis makes an interesting case for Government ownership of the telephone system in Washington. He is notoriously a good statistician; he proved it when, having loaded himself on the subject of parcel post, various veteran but uninformed members of Congress assumed to tilt with him on that subject and got unhorsed.

Mr. Lewis tells us that we make very limited use of the telephone service in Washington, and that the reason is that we are charged too much for it. A good many of us have suspected all that for a long time; but nobody has taken the trouble, heretofore, to analyze the figures.

From Congressman Lewis' summary of the facts about telephones in Washington it is gathered that the average charge for each telephone call in this town is 4 1/2 cents, while the independent companies in a group of comparable cities average a bit less than 1 cent per call. This really does not state the case fairly. Any city that has an "independent" exchange also has a "Bell" exchange, and both must be supported from the general capacity of the community to patronize the

telephone. When the total potential telephone revenue can be divided between two companies, and still one of them furnish service at 1 cent, it certainly seems that a company enjoying a monopoly, as in Washington, ought to do it for a good deal less than 4 1/2 cents.

There is still more to it. The United States Government is the biggest user of telephone service in Washington. That means that the costs of accounting, collecting, and the like, are reduced, as to this proportion of the business, to the irreducible minimum. The Government is good pay, and a liberal user. It may fairly be concluded that the average private patron does even less business with his phone than appears from the statement of averages; for the Government instruments are used freely, without much thought of the cost per call. The householder and the business establishment must think more gravely of such details.

Mr. Lewis' project deserves the serious attention of the lawmakers. If the Washington telephone service can be localized and municipalized without interference with the general system of interstate and toll business, the experiment is worth while. If it can't, perhaps the whole telephone service of the country should be nationalized. That has been done nearly everywhere else, and at least the countries that have placed telephones under their postoffices do not return to the old system of corporate ownership.

## THE GREATER MUNICIPAL DAIRY IDEA

When the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' Association brought forward the proposal of a municipal dairy in Washington, it was regarded by many as an idea so radical, so novel, so subversive of individualistic methods, as to be impossible. Yet the Pennsylvania State Grange, perhaps the most powerful State organization of the Grange in the country, proposes not only a municipal dairy for Philadelphia, and other Keystone cities, but one on a more ambitious and inclusive plan than was proposed for Washington.

The Pennsylvania proposal looks to a municipal dairy in each city, which shall handle not only milk, but also butter and eggs, establishing a direct relationship between the producer and the unified distribution system of the city. The grand master of the State Grange, John A. McSparran, made the report demanding these innovations, and was cheered to the echo by the 3,000 delegates in convention assembled. He used milk as the most impressive illustration of the injustice which present conditions impose on both the producer and the consumer, employing the same analysis and arguments that have been advanced, months ago, in Washington; but he expanded the argument by showing that butter and eggs could and should properly be handled by the same municipal dairy organizations, in order to relieve producer and consumer from the exactions of the "egg trust kings" and the "butter trust kings."

The Pennsylvania organization took steps toward a general investigation of the cost of producing and marketing these articles. Committees were authorized, to effect a co-operation between the producers in the country and the organizations in the cities and towns, such as housewives' leagues, consumers' leagues, and the like.

It will be recalled that a few weeks ago, following the advancement of the municipal dairy idea in Washington, a tri-State milk commission was named by the governments of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, to investigate the whole milk problem. That commission went systematically about its work, and listened to a presentation of the plan devised by the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' Association. The decision of the Pennsylvania Grange in favor of the municipal dairy plan is highly significant, to say the least, of what will be decided when such a problem is scientifically and thoroughly studied.

Berlin takes pains to make plain that it isn't asking any neutral to mediate with the allies. Perhaps the neutrals, though snubbed, will be quite content.

The King of Greece has sent word that he regrets certain recent events in Athens in which the dignity of the French Republic was ruffled and some of its soldiers were killed. He will have occasion to regret still more deeply before the incident is closed.

The new Austrian Emperor assures his people that they're bound to win; but then that's just a fixed part of the Emperor business.

The stock market, like Mr. Lloyd George, had a chill on the day of the Berlin peace move. Next day both opened much stronger.

The stock market effects of the German peace proposal indicated that Berlin could blow up more munitions with diplomatic suggestions than with bomb plots.

## Don Marquis' Column

**The Dead Dragon.**  
He hath gone out from his brave world today—  
Let him go as the Soldier! Let him ride  
Like Raleigh, or that bold heart who defied  
The Athenian tyrants to the death.  
Burst but all men's hearts, and let none say:  
This was ill done that this man should have died.  
New lands, new songs, new bugles his; new tried,  
His lance goes dancing down the star paved way.

Say, rather: One who little hopes, naught fears,  
Fares forth on his black steed! Say that he goes  
As speeds the true knight on to dare his foes,  
His heart a torch, a tripping catch in ears—  
His daily trade, calling no more for tears  
Than lost love, sundown, or some crumbling rose.  
—Earl Simonson.

**Announcement.**  
In response to many inquiries the temporary editor of this column desires to state that Mr. Don Marquis is at present indisposed and unable to perform his accustomed labors. He will return to the Sun Dial shortly.

**Social Doings at Home and Abroad.**  
General von Mackensen of Berlin and Warsaw is spending the week-end in the Balkans.  
D. Lloyd-George, of London, England was a pleasant visitor to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.  
King George of England is busy changing his ministry this week, rumor has it.

Pres. Woodrow Wilson read one of his own compositions to a select company of friends last Tuesday. A fine time was had by all.  
Chris. Morley of here and Garden City is receiving the congratulations of all his large circle of friends these fine Dec. days, the reason for same being the arrival of Chris. Morley, Jr., who, according to his Proud Parent, will be a contributor to the Sun Dial in 1917. He might do worse as our only comment.

Mr. Bryan of Nebraska spoke a piece on the Wickedness of Liquor in Washington, D. C., Thursday, that being one of Wm.'s favorite topics of conversation, so to speak.  
Eggs were higher again here yesterday.

**You Do It.**  
Sir: Isn't this about the time of the year when the Sun Dial should print a "vers d'river" poem?  
—Ralphie.

**Heyday.**  
Night is for counsel, and the stars shed wisdom.  
However, youth is sufficient, and at noontide the blood runs warm.  
Red tides, and hot desires—lusty living.  
Time enough, with the sun's decrepitude,  
For the moon to wax, hugging to it the pallid semblance of what has passed;  
Time enough for its light, and the stars, to indicate upon wavering white gravestones the lines of shadow that are names.  
—F. M. C.

**Why Is the Home?**  
The tradition of the Home is one of the most extraordinary actions of modern life. It demonstrates clearly the inability of man to think himself out of sentimental bondage. He is willing to suffer lifelong imprisonment rather than to breathe a single doled against the sacredness of this inherited delusion.

In the days when a man's house was his castle, the invention of the home was a logical and fundamental matter. It was the State in miniature.

But to maintain that a modern apartment is a man's castle is to put a veil upon the truth. The modern apartment (which we cite because it is the corner stone of the present-day civilization) frequently may resemble a denon heap; but it is by no means a castle. It is a place where incompetent servants may vent their spleen upon the china, normal beings may be cramped and confined into a state of nervous debility, where privacy is impossible and solitude a vanished dream.

Houses are not so bad, but houses are beyond the reach of the mass of us. And few houses are built with any comprehension of the fact that man is, at heart, a solitary animal, who needs isolation for his happiness as a tree needs room for its roots. The soul grows only in silence.

We of the Western civilization are amateurs in the art of living. Nine out of every ten of us wastes his or her entire allowance for the present day essentials, trying to get ready to begin to live, and never really living. We are like the woman who spent twenty years preparing for the party, and died of overwork the day that it was scheduled to take place.

We give the precious treasure of our years to the maintenance of a hollow fiction; we put on chains in profitless submission to a hereditary delusion; we tell "to keep the little home together" when we might be spending that same amount of time and money on something interesting and useful, an automobile, for instance, or a course in Esperanto. We are too infernally settled down to do anything but make a fetish of business, which by some monstrous mischance has come to be an end in itself.

Life is best in the volatile State. Our advice to young couples about to marry is to buy or build an automobile with a tent or cabin attached, and to go about the world enjoying strange sunsets, and getting acquainted with the neighbors. The expenses of the journey could be defrayed by selling sweet grass baskets, or playing the flute. There is something flut and fundamental about a flute.

We are claimed for the most part, by necessity, that there is no reason why we should attempt to hide the chains beneath a cloak of hypocritical morality. There is nothing noticeably moral in the modern scheme of living in cells and moving in ruts. The confirmed amateur cries: "But we serve!"

And then we die, and worms eat us, and the lugubrious fiction goes on at the same pace, nerves, our china and our immortal souls.

## Say! Mommer Is They Much Danger of Santy Claus Flying Over England and Getting Mistook F'r a Zeppelin?



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## DR. VAN SCHAICK DEFENDS CHARITIES

In Open Letter to Piney Branch Citizens He Praises Action Recently Taken.

To the Piney Branch Citizens' Association:  
Gentlemen—In the evening papers for today there is a report of a meeting of the Piney Branch Citizens' Association held last night.

The suggestion was made, it is said, by S. T. Cameron that members of the association discontinue giving aid to the Associated Charities because that organization has favored the location of the new municipal hospital on the site purchased at Fourteenth and Upshur streets northwest. A motion was made and carried authorizing C. P. McCurdy, it is said, to suggest the same action to other citizens' associations.

**Has Taken No Action.**  
Your association seems to be ignorant of the fact that the Associated Charities has never taken any action whatever in the matter of the location of this hospital. Your members appear to have confused the Associated Charities, a private organization to help the poor, with the Board of Charities, a public body, appointed by the President of the United States, and under the Commissioners a part of the government of the District of Columbia.

It is to call your attention to this matter as the action decided upon last night strikes a blow at those in the community least able to hear it and at a worthy organization doing a great work in their behalf.

The Piney Branch Citizens' Association, if correctly reported, decided to hit men who are down and out and unable to strike back, in order to accomplish their purpose.

No more monstrous action has ever been taken by any body of our citizens. It is war on widows and orphans. It is on a par with poisoning the springs and wells of the enemy. It is action unworthy of upright men. And that it was based on ignorance does not excuse its utter and complete selfishness.

The Board of Charities is the organization which has been working for years for the new Municipal Hospital. This body and not the Associated Charities is the organization which you apparently want to attack. Fortunately this board does not depend for its existence on voluntary contributions of the people. It cannot be reached by boycott. I cannot say that the members of the Board of Charities are indifferent to the opinion of the Piney Branch Citizens' Association, for the good opinion of our fellow-citizens is prized by all of us.

**As to Good Opinion.**  
If to get that good opinion we have to subordinate principle to expediency, we will get along without them. The Piney Branch Citizens' Association does not represent the real opinion in this community to the Municipal Hospital.

The Piney Branch Citizens' Association is simply a cloak behind which the real opponents of the project are hiding. They welcome these citizens as instruments to accomplish their ends. If the Piney Branch Citizens' Association were not there, the opposition would still be in the field, or hiding in the bushes around the field.

As to the location of the hospital on the site purchased, the opposition of the Piney Branch Citizens' Association is as ignorant an opposition as their attack on the Associated Charities is an ignorant attack. The Tuberculosis Hospital, one unit of the plant already there, has not been a drawback to the neighbor-

hood but an improvement. Real estate prices have steadily advanced. The building proposed would be a beautiful structure set in a beautiful park. The use of street car facilities by people visiting this hospital would be no greater than the use of street cars by poor people all the time. Patients would be taken to the hospital in ambulances.

**Cannot Revise Itself.**  
The reasons why the Board of Charities cannot reverse itself upon this project are eight in number:

1. A self-respecting, up-to-date community should make adequate provision for its sick poor.
2. In justice to the taxpayers, this should be done at the lowest rate consistent with good service.
3. The Washington Asylum Hospital is terribly overcrowded, and inadequate in other ways.
4. The proposed site has been purchased for sixteen years.
5. It is a good site.
6. One large building has already been erected.
7. The whole project is a neighborhood improvement, rather than an injury.
8. The opposition is ignorant and selfish, and largely manufactured by people who have their own ends to serve.

JOHN VAN SCHAICK, JR.,  
Member Board of Charities.

## WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled.

**Today.**  
Meeting, Church League of the Diocese of Washington, Epiphany Church, G street near Fourteenth street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Annual "comical evening," Washington Samaritan, in hall, 314 C street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Concert, Soldiers' Home Band Orchestra, Stanley Hall, at home, 7 p. m.  
Exhibition "Early Art," motion pictures, under direction of Morton F. Leopold and W. L. Swanton, Home Club, 7:30 p. m.  
Joint reception, Mount Pleasant W. C. T. U. and Mount Pleasant Y. P. M. Friends' Church, Thirteenth and Irving streets northwest, 8 p. m.  
Illustrated lecture, "Chinese Books," Dr. Walter T. de la Motte, at meeting of District of Columbia Library Association, Public Library, 9:15 p. m.  
Rubbins Club rehearsal, Raleigh, 10:30 a. m.

Meeting of Daughters of Founders and Patriots, Raleigh, 10:30 a. m.  
Concert for benefit of Bible Hospital, Raleigh, 8 p. m.  
Meeting, Connecticut Avenue Citizens' Association, Army and Navy Preparatory School Hall, 8 p. m.  
Banquet and turkey dinner, benefit of Florence Crittenton Home, at the home, 318 Third street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Meeting, Webster School Parent-Teacher Association, Webster School, 2:45 p. m.  
Lecture, "Classical Learning in Ancient Ireland," Dr. J. H. Murphy, at meeting of the College of the University of Berlin, McMahon Hall of the Catholic University, 8 p. m.  
Meeting, executive committee of the Washington branch of the Personal Liberty League, 728 Thirteenth street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Reception by Real Estate Brokers' Association of Washington to delegates of the American Civic Association, New Willard, 8 p. m.  
Concert for benefit of Methodist Children's Home, Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church, 8:15 p. m.  
Address, Representative Nolan, at meeting of District Employees' Chamber of Commerce, 8 p. m.  
Convention, American Civic Association, at Exhibition of moving pictures, American Field Service in France, at 1411 H street, 8 p. m.  
Meeting, Military Service Legion, at room 406, National Guard Armory, 473 L street northwest, 8:15 p. m.  
Meeting, Kentucky State Association, at New Exhibit, 8 p. m.  
Lecture, "Law of Love, Marriage and Business," Miss Louise Curtis Powell, 8 p. m.  
How to Be Beautiful, Mrs. Carolyn De la Motte, 8 p. m.  
Portrait of C. W. Kutz, "Features of Engineer Department of the District," at meeting of Western High Home and School Association, at school, 8 p. m.  
Masonic-Harmony, No. 11, Grand Lodge of Instruction, Washington, Commandery, No. 1; Monthly Meeting of St. John's Mite Association, No. 3, and Brotherhood of the Holy Cross, No. 3, Knights of Pythias-Mount Vernon, No. 8; United No. 2; Columbia, No. 8, Washington High Home and School Association, Friendship Temple, No. 2, of the Pythian Sisters.  
Old Fellows, Eastern, No. 7, Harmony, No. 8; Federal City, No. 20, Columbian Empire, No. 1, Mount Pleasant, No. 2, of the Belvidere.  
National Union-Interior, No. 23, Pythian Temple.  
Red Men-Coccolia Tribe, No. 33; White Eagle Council, No. 4.

## FAVOR ANNAPOLIS FOR TEST PLANT

Members of Naval Board Recommend Laboratory for Maryland Capital.

The Naval Advisory Board of which Thomas Edison is the head, has recommended to Secretary Daniels the establishment of the naval experimental laboratory at Annapolis.

One and a half millions were recommended for the establishment. The Secretary is expected to accept the recommendation. Secretary Daniels left Washington yesterday for Norfolk to speak at the Southern Commercial Congress, and will not return to Washington before Friday. It could not be learned from the department, therefore, what action the Secretary might be expected to take. He will make an announcement when he reaches the city toward the end of the week.

It is stated that the fact that an experimental laboratory has already been established at Annapolis weighed heavily with the consulting board in favor of that city. Most of the members took the ground that the present plant should be taken over and greatly enlarged, instead of spending the \$1,500,000 upon a new establishment.

Baltimore was an active competitor of Annapolis for the laboratory. A committee presented the Monumental City's advantages to the Navy Department, and later went over the ground again with the naval consulting board. Four members of that body personally inspected the Baltimore property. Thomas A. Edison, the fifth member, did not pay a personal visit to Baltimore, but did go to Annapolis.

## MILITARY COURSE LATER

No Units of Officers' Reserve Corps At G. W. U. This Year.

A unit of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the Army will not be established at George Washington University this year. It is probable that efforts will be exerted later to insure the formation of a unit next year. The War Department requires the assurance that at least 100 students will join the unit before permitting the organization to be formed. A vigorous campaign was conducted at the university, under direction of Captain McKenney, U. S. A., who was desirous of being appointed instructor in military science, and within a few weeks seventy-five students had given their pledge to join. Because of the fact that the first semester at the university is nearing its end, however, it was decided that the securing of the necessary twenty-five additional students would delay the organization to so as to render inadvisable the inauguration of the military science course this year.

## EXCLUDES ALL ASIATICS

Senate Accepts Amendment to Bill Eliminating Reference to Japan.

The Senate by a vote of 42 to 14 accepted the committee amendment to the immigration bill which would exclude Hindus and other Asiatics without mentioning them by name. The amendment eliminates reference to the passport agreement with Japan. Such reference was offensive to the Japanese government. Senator Reed of Missouri offered amendments to extend the exclusion to Africans and all but white natives of the West Indies and the islands of the Atlantic ocean. These were rejected.